

I. Greetings from the EREN Coordinator's Office

Hello EREN Members!

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Greetings from Central Ohio! EREN is now in its absolutely last phase of National Science Foundation funding – we received a second no-cost extension from NSF and all funds must be spent by mid-September, 2016. We are using most of these remaining funds on our 5th All Members Meeting, taking place at my home institution, Ohio Wesleyan University, June 29 – July 1, 2016 in Delaware, OH. Registration is now open until 5PM on Friday, April 22 or until we reach 50 attendees. The registration link is here: <http://blog.owu.edu/redcap6/surveys/?s=JMTNEXJLEM>

This is an important moment of transition and evolution for EREN. At our last All Members Meeting in June 2014, there was strong support for continuing EREN, with or without grant funding. The Leadership Team has drafted a set of by-laws that will allow EREN to function on the model of a non-profit organization, with an elected governing board. I plan to distribute the by-laws to all members in mid-May, for comment and feedback. The All Members Meeting will have a venue for discussion of the by-laws and nomination of board members to stand for election. Further nominations and the actual election will take place electronically after the meeting, in order to include those who cannot attend. The pros and cons of EREN gaining non-profit status will also be discussed. We welcome your engagement in this transition phase.

Finally, I encourage all project participants to consider what kind of support you need from EREN to move your project forward. Teaching and mentoring through engagement in authentic, collaborative, publishable research remains our primary mission.

Laurie Anderson
EREN Coordinator

II. EREN Updates

November 19, 2015: EREN Coordinator Laurie Anderson was honored as the 2015 Ohio Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). Laurie's leadership role in EREN was recognized as a key strength of her nomination package. Read more here: <https://www.owu.edu/news-media/details/ohio-wesleyans-laurel-j-anderson-named-ohio-professor-of-the-year>.

January 14-16, 2016: EREN Leadership Team members Laurie Anderson and Erin Lindquist attended the Summit Meeting of the Research Coordination Networks-Undergraduate Biology Education Program at the National Science Foundation. Laurie presented an overview of EREN in a session titled "Great Things Networks Do" and Erin presented a poster detailing the progress of the Permanent Forest Plot Project. The group discussed themes such as best practices for network management, broadening and diversifying participation in networks, and how to measure success for RCN-UBE projects.

February 2016: Members of the EREN Leadership Team had a paper titled: "Collaborative Research Networks Provide Unique Opportunities for Faculty and Student Researchers" accepted by the Council of Undergraduate Research Quarterly. Leadership Team Member Jeff Simmons served as first author on this publication that summarizes EREN's successes and serves as a retrospective on our work as EREN's funding draws to a close. Laurie Anderson, David Bowne, Jerald Dosch, Tracy Gartner, Martha Hoopes, Karen Kuers, Erin Lindquist, Tim McCay, Bob Pohlad, Kathleen Shea, and Carolyn Thomas made contributions as manuscript co-authors.

April 2016: EREN Leadership Team Members Bob Pohlad and Carolyn Thomas were jointly selected to receive the Eugene P. Odum Award for Excellence in Ecology Education by the Ecological Society of America! Congratulations! Read the press release here: http://www.ferrum.edu/campus_life/news/Articles/2016_thomas_pohlad_odum_award_recipients.html. Full disclosure: Laurie Anderson chairs this awards subcommittee, but recused herself from evaluating any nominees associated with EREN.

III. Upcoming EREN Events

The **EREN All Members Meeting** has been scheduled for June 29 – July 1, 2016 at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, OH. EREN's funding can support up to 50 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration is now open, and will close by April 22, or once the 50 person limit is reached. Please register using this link: <http://blog.owu.edu/redcap6/surveys/?s=JMTNEXJLEM>

EREN will again have an active presence at the **Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, August 7-12, 2016** in Fort Lauderdale, FL. We will publicize presentations by EREN Members and host a low-key social event. More information to come as plans finalize.

IV. The EREN Bird-window Collisions Project

EREN's mission is to teach students and provide professional development for faculty through engagement in collaborative, multi-site, publishable ecological research. The Bird-window Collisions (BWC) Project, led by Drs. Steve Hager and Brad Cosentino, is an example of a very successful EREN project, both in terms of engaging many faculty and student collaborators and progressing toward publication. An update from Steve and Brad on the BWC Project appears below:

The EREN BWC Project continues to progress toward publishing results on the local and regional factors influencing bird-window collisions in North America. The EREN meeting at Augustana College, IL, in summer 2014, provided BWC collaborators with the opportunity to work out research methods in preparation for their first official field season later that fall. What follows is a summary of the group's activities since this meeting. Data on BWCs were collected in fall 2014 from 281 buildings on 40 college campuses in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The data were collated and summarized in spring 2015, and the group made the decision to move ahead with publishing without collecting data during a second field season.

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Collaborators discussed analysis options at the EREN meeting at Elizabethtown College, PA, in summer 2015, and Steve and Brad conducted a preliminary data analysis in fall 2015. Collaborators reviewed a report on this preliminary analysis and provided feedback on analyses and interpretation of the findings. Steve and Brad revised the data analysis in January 2016 and began writing the manuscript.

One of the major findings was that the association between probability of BWCs and building size depended on the level of urbanization surrounding college campuses. Probability of BWCs at large buildings, which tended to have high window area, was greater in rural landscapes than in urban landscapes. The short-term goal of the EREN BWC group is have a draft manuscript finished by the end of the spring semester for collaborator review. Steve will also present this work at the North American Ornithological Conference, Washington, DC, in August 2016. To date, the progress attained by the BWC collaborators has been possible by setting project goals and deadlines for meeting those goals, and by a group of students and faculty who are excited about collecting data on bird conservation and preparing to share that data with others.